

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 /041 W

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9161

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ILO, NZ

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALDN FEDERATION OF LABOUR (FOL) INTEREST IN
ILO GOVERNING BODY SEAT

1. FOL SECRETARY JIM KNOX TOLD LABATT JANUARY 30 THAT FOL EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING ILO GOVERNING BODY SEAT NOW HELD BY HOB HAWKE, PRESIDENT OF ATUC. ACCORDING TO KNOX, WHO HOPES TO GET SEAT, HAWKE AND FOL PRESIDENT TOM SKINNER AGREED THREE YEARS AGO THAT AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND TRADEUNIONISTS SHOULD ALTERNATE IN HOLDING SEAT. HAWKE, APPARENTLY, DOES NOT RECALL SUCH AN AGREEMENT AND IS ACTING LIKE A MAN WHO WANTS TO RETAIN THE POST.

2. IN ORDER TO FURTHER FOL CASE FOR GOVERNING BODY SEAT BOTH SKINNER AND KNOX WANT TO GO TO ILO CONFERENCE IN JUNE. SKINNER IS ASSURED POSITION AS WORKERS' DELEGATE BUT KNOX IS HAVING SOME DIFFICULTIES ROUNDING UP SUPPORT TO BE WORKERS' ADVISOR. KNOX'S PROBLEMS STEM FROM FACT THAT A NUMBER OF FOL CONSTITUENTS ARE UNWILLING TO SEE BOTH THE ORGANIZATION'S PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OUT OF COUNTRY FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD. BOTH ATTENDED ILO CONFERENCE IN 1969 AND CAME IN FOR CRITICISM WHEN A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES WENT UNRESOLVED DURING

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THEIR ABSENCE. KNOX SAID HE HAS ALREADY BEEN TOLD BY

SEVERAL UNION SECRETARIES THAT THEY WILL NOT SUPPORT
HIS CANDIDACY IF SKINNER ALSO GOES TO THE CONFERENCE.
A REALIST, KNOX DOES NOT BELIEVE HE CAN BE ELECTED TO
THE GOVERNING BODY UNLESS HE IS AT THE CONFERENCE. FOL
VOTING FOR ILO DELEGATE AND ADVISOR POSITIONS NOW
UNDERWAY. FINAL RESULTS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE BY
MID-FEBRUARY.
SELDEN

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